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Amdt. dated 09/08/2004
Reply to Office Action of 06/10/2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 - 20 as shown below.

1.   (Currently amended) A method of executing ~~a~~ system
management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a
network, said computer systems running different
system management software utilities having different
command structures, said method comprising the steps
of:

entering the ~~command~~ commands in a common interface,
the commands including requests to start execution of
the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to
provide command execution progress status to the
common interface, said common interface translating
said ~~command~~ commands into the different command
structures;

dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an
appropriate computer system ~~systems~~; and

executing the dispatched command ~~on the computer
systems~~.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein ~~said
command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed
concurrently.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein
~~said command includes a command to provide command~~

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~~execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the commands.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

5.   (Currently) The method of Claim 4 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain ~~their~~ its operability.

6.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for executing ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said computer program product comprising:

code means for allowing the ~~command~~ commands to be entered in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to provide command execution progress status, said common interface translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command structures;

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code means for dispatching each translated command to
~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~;
and

code means for requesting that the dispatched command
be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

7.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of
Claim 6 wherein ~~said command is~~ all dispatched
commands are executed concurrently.

8.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of
Claim ~~7~~ 6 wherein ~~said command includes a command to~~
~~provide command execution progress status back to said~~
~~common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to
provide command execution progress status are directed
to one, a few or all the computer systems executing
the command.

9.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of
Claim 8 wherein the computer systems on which the
~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in
groups.

10.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of
Claim 9 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to
~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface
pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain ~~their~~
its operability.

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11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for executing ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said apparatus comprising:

means for entering the ~~command~~ commands in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to provide command execution progress status to the common interface, said common interface translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command structures;

means for dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~; and

means for ~~requestin~~ requesting that the dispatched command be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein ~~said command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed

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to one, a few or all the computer systems executing
the commands.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein
the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands
are to be executed are entered in groups.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein
before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer
system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the
computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain its ~~their~~
operability.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system for commanding
that ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands be executed
on computer systems in a network, said computer
systems running different system management software
utilities having different command structures, said
computer system comprising:

at least one memory device for storing the ~~command~~
commands; and

at least one processor, said processor for processing
software code for allowing the ~~command~~ commands to be
entered in a common interface, the commands including
requests to start execution of the commands, to stop
execution of the commands or to provide command
execution progress status, and for translating said
~~command~~ commands into the different command

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structures, for dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~ and for commanding that said dispatched command be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

17.   (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 16 wherein said ~~command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

18.   (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the commands.

19.   (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 18 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

20.   (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 19 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain its ~~their~~ operability.

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